THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • TUESDAY • FEBRUARY 22, 2022 • ₹9.00 • PAGES 20 • LATE CITY EDITION

READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianexpress twitter.com/newindianexpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

CORBEVAX GETS EMERGENCY USE NOD FOR 12-18 AGE GROUP

Hyderabad-based Biological E's Covid vaccine has received restricted emergency use authorisation (EUA), officials said

SECOND JAB FOR THOSE UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE

It comes days after the Drugs Controller General of India's Subject Expert Committee on Covid-19 recommended granting restricted EUA to Corbevax for use in people between the ages of 15 and 18. It will be the second vaccine to be available for them with Covaxin being the other. The Centre is yet to take a call on vaccinating those below 15 years of age

INDIA'S FIRST RBD PROTEIN SUB-UNIT JAB

- The decision to grant EUA was based on interim results of phase 2/3 trial, which indicated the vaccine is safe and immunogenic
- Corbevax is India's first indigenously-developed receptor-binding domain (RBD) protein sub-unit vaccine. It contains a component of SARS-CoV virus's spike protein, which helps develop immunity

28 days

THE PRESCRIBED GAP BETWEEN TWO DOSES OF CORBEVAX

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

BAJRANG DAL YOUTH KILLED, MORE TROUBLE FOR STATE IN TURMOIL

Shivamogga witnesses incidents of arson, violence; Police fire in air; Two held for murder

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Shivamogga

THE communally sensitive Shivamogga, which went to bed on Sunday night with the news of murder of a Bajrang Dal activist, Harsha (28), woke up to incidents of violence on Monday morning.

Tension prevailed since early hours of Monday as the city witnessed arson, stone throwing and damage to properties. The police arrested two people in connection with the murder, but the cause of crime is not yet known. However, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra in Bengaluru said three have been arrested.

A mob sets vehicles on fire (above) amid tension following Harsha's (below) murder, which also saw stone-throwing incidents (right), in Shivamogga on Monday | PTI

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said the investigation into the murder started on Sunday night itself. "We will take it to a logical conclusion. The police have been instructed to monitor the situation," he added.

Harsha was murdered when he went out to have dinner near Kamat Petrol Pump on NT Road between 9 pm and 9.30 pm on Sunday. The killers, who came in a car, attacked Harsha with lethal weapons. He was rushed to McGann Hospital, where he succumbed to injuries. Following the murder, violence erupted in the city.

In a police complaint, Harsha's mother stated that her son had told her about a threat to his life from some youth of another community. Jnanendra said Harsha was accused in some cases, while top police sources told The New Indian Express that three cases were registered against him. Two cases were related to rioting and assault, one was for hurting religious sentiments.

The police identified the two arrested in Harsha's murder case as Khasif (30) and Syed Nadeem (20).

When Harsha's body was being brought from McGann Hospital on Monday afternoon, miscreants threw stones at houses and shops. Arson incidents were also reported.

CONTINUED ON: P4

We will take the probe to a logical conclusion. The police have been instructed to monitor the situation

Basavaraj Bommai, Chief Minister

'His life was in danger'

In her complaint to the police, Harsha's mother said that her son had told her that there was a threat to his life from youths belonging to a different community.

Putin may declare parts of Ukraine independent

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

IN a move that could change the dynamics of the crisis in Ukraine, the Kremlin said Russian President Vladimir Putin will recognise two enclaves in eastern Ukraine held by pro-Russia separatists as independent countries.

"In the near future, the president plans to sign the order," the Kremlin said. It comes after pro-Russia leaders of the two regions — Donetsk and Lugansk — sought Moscow's official recognition. The West fears that once the separatist territories are recognised as independent countries, Russia may send forces there putting further pressure on Ukraine.

Reacting to the development, French president Emmanuel Macron convened his country's defence and security council for a meeting on Monday.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Putin's latest move will violate the 2015 peace plan to resolve the separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine.

Earlier, dashing hopes of a diplomatic resolution, Kremlin there are no concrete plans for a summit between leaders of Russia and the US.

It came hours after the White House said Joe Biden is ready to meet Putin as long as Russia avoids invading Ukraine. P12

A woman with her children leaves a conflict zone in eastern Ukraine | AP

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
HOME LOAN @ 6.65 p.a.
Scan to apply online and get instant approval
*Conditions Apply
1800 425 0018

NATIONWIDE	FEB 20	FEB 21
Fresh cases	19,968	16,051
Recoveries	48,847	37,901
Deaths	673	206

KARNATAKA	FEB 20	FEB 21
Fresh cases	1,001	879
Recoveries	1,780	1,952
Deaths	18	21

JAB-O-METER
TAKE YOUR SHOT
February 20: 7,00,706 doses
February 21: 32,03,706 doses
TOTAL DOSES: 1,75,70,78,193

EXPRESS READ

Banks must be more customer-friendly: FM

Mumbai: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said banks need to focus more on being customer-friendly so that the process of availing credit becomes more hassle-free. However, she clarified banks don't have to be lenient on credit underwriting standards by taking adverse risks on a proposal.

Jaishankar, French counterpart hold talks

Paris: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Sunday held wide-ranging and productive talks with his French counterpart Jean-Yves Le Drian here during which he discussed bilateral cooperation, Indo-Pacific and the Ukraine situation. Jaishankar reached France on Sunday after concluding his visit to Germany.

'BJP did nothing, but create rift'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

CONGRESS chief Sonia Gandhi tore into the BJP on the last day of campaigning for the fourth phase of Uttar Pradesh polls, highlighting the alleged failure of both the Centre and state governments in checking price rise, removing farmers' distress, and containing high fuel prices. She said the mismanagement of the BJP government during the pandemic caused immeasurable pain to people.

In a video message to the people of Raebareli, she alleged the Yogi Adityanath government stopped all development works in her constituency. "We had brought in several schemes for you but the Modi-Yogi governments put a stop to all of them. Step-motherly treatment was meted out to Raebareli," she said.

On the farming sector, she said the government did not do anything, adding the party's sole focus was in creating differences between two communities. "Youth study and prepare for jobs but the BJP government made you sit at home. At least 12 lakh government job posts are vacant but you've not been given jobs. The prices of petrol, diesel, LPG, mustard oil are skyrocketing and it has become difficult for people to run households," she said.

Gandhi is the Lok Sabha MP from Raebareli, where voting will take place on February 23 on all five assembly seats of Raebareli (Sadar), Harchandpur, Bachchrawan, Sareni and Unchahar. This time the Congress faces a tough task in Raebareli as both its MLAs — Aditi Singh from Raebareli and Sadar Rakesh Singh from Harchandpur — have crossed over to the BJP and are fighting on the lotus symbol. After winning over Congress bastion Amethi, the BJP is now trying to wrest Gandhi's home turf of Raebareli.

Centre cut budgets for rural job schemes: Sonia

Sonia Gandhi accused the Narendra Modi-led government of cutting budgets for the rural job guarantee schemes, one of the flagship projects launched by the Congress to support the poor.

40 hijab-clad students, who were not allowed to write the exam by the Lingaraj College management in Belagavi, stage a protest before the DC's office on Monday

Sec 144 around B'luru colleges

BENGALURU: Following protests over the hijab row at educational institutions across the state, the Bengaluru city police have imposed prohibitory orders under Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, prohibiting gathering or protesting within a radius of 200 metres around schools and colleges, for two more weeks. Karnataka has witnessed several demonstrations over the last week on the issue, which had forced the State Government to declare a holiday for high schools and colleges till Friday. As a preventive step, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Kamal Pant issued prohibitory orders on Monday, banning all types of demonstrations near educational institutions in the city till March 8. **ENS**

Hijab not essential religious practice: State to HC

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

IN the ongoing hearing on petitions related to the hijab issue before the Karnataka High Court, Advocate General Prabhuling K Navadagi on Monday argued that student-petitioners have not been able to substantiate their claim that wearing hijab is an essential religious practice as they have not placed any material to support their argument. Citing several Supreme Court judgements, starting from Shirur Mutt to Sabarimala case, Navadagi said that wearing hijab is not an essential religious practice under Article 25 of the Constitution.

He was arguing before the full bench of Chief Justice Ritu Raj Awasthi, Justices Krishna S Dixit and JM Khazi which is hearing a batch of petitions filed by Muslim students from Udupi district and others, questioning the order issued by the state government on February 5, 2022 banning hijab in schools and colleges where the College Development Committee (CDC) is constituted.

Navadagi argued that the contention that triple talaq was part of a religious practice was rejected by the apex court. If wearing hijab is an essential religious practice, it should not come in conflict with the public order, he added.

Not only that, it has to pass the 'essential test' on certain principles, otherwise the question of declaring a religious practice essential does not arise, he claimed. The principles raised by Navadagi are that wearing hijab must be a practice fundamental to that religion. If that practice is not observed or not followed or discontinued, it would result in change of the religion itself. P4

Congress

MAY LACK MAJORITY IN PUNJAB: PARTY ASSESSMENT

Strong performances by Aam Aadmi Party and Shiromani Akali Dal are likely to dent the prospects of ruling Congress in the state, according to a post-poll assessement by the party. The party may still emerge as the single-largest in the state Assembly |P9

LALU GETS 5-YEAR JAIL

A special CBI court on Monday sentenced RJD leader Lalu Prasad to five years in jail and slapped a fine of ₹60 lakh on him in connection with the ₹ 139 crore Doranda treasury embezzlement case | P10

MAGIC SQUARE

Chennai boy Praggnanandhaa lives a dream, beats Carlsen

ASHOK VENUGOPAL @Chennai

FULFILLING a dream has its own charm. It's filled with romance. For players, it's the search for that perfect game or that elusive win. Early on Monday, R Praggnanandhaa lived that kind of a day when he beat World No 1 Magnus Carlsen. To put the win in an Indian context, only two players have beaten Magnus Carlsen: Viswanathan Anand and P Harikrishna.

Carlsen, at one level, seems impenetrable. On Monday, during the Airthings Masters, a rapid online meet, the 16-year-old out-moved the world champion with black pieces. Such is the Norwegian's aura that people compare him with Gary Kasparov, who is regarded by many as the greatest player of all time. So, when a young Indian Grandmaster beats him, it is news.

Praggnanandhaa won with black pieces in 39 moves in a Tarrasch variation game to halt Carlsen's run of three straight wins.

"It is a great feeling to beat Magnus Carlsen, who is world No 1 and one of the strongest players in the history of the game. This is certainly my best win to date," he said.

The Indian GM is joint 12th after eight rounds with eight points. His win over Carlsen comes after a moderate run in the earlier rounds, which included a solitary victory over Lev Aronian, two draws and four defeats. Many felt that Carlsen could have underestimated the Indian prodigy.

"No way," Praggnanandhaa pooh-poohs such a suggestion. "Carlsen never underestimates anyone. In world chess, and in particular, online players are very careful and watchful of their opponents. I did not do anything special. I played my normal game and capitalised on the openings I got." The youngster has been working hard for this tournament by training with his coach. "I have prepared well and in earnest for this tournament with my coach RB Ramesh. This win against Carlsen will motivate me to do well in the remaining games. The match goes on till early morning 3 am. I have to adjust accordingly and tune my sleep clock," he said.

Enrolment for higher education poor in state

BALA CHAUHAN @Bengaluru

KARNATAKA, though considered one of the most progressive and better administered states in the country, lags behind others in the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education in the country and is the worst among all South Indian states.

As per the All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE) - 2019-20, Karnataka had ranked 13th in the country with 31.58 per cent male and 32.80 per cent female students in higher education, as against Sikkim, which is ranked first with 83.60 per cent male and 67.60 per cent female students in higher education.

Among southern states, Karnataka ranked last with Tamil Nadu ranking third, with 51.80 per cent males and 51 per cent females. It is followed by Kerala (32.90 per cent males and 44.70 per cent females), Telangana (34.80 per cent males and 36.40 per cent females) and Andhra Pradesh (38.30 per cent males and 32.70 per cent females), standing at the eighth, 10th and 12th positions in the all-India ranking.

The GER in higher education is calculated for 18-23 year age group. It is the total enrolment in higher education, regardless of age, as a percentage of eligible official population in a given school year. GER is widely used to show the general level of participation in higher education. The survey pointed to gross disparity among districts in South Karnataka – Udupi (75.13 per cent males and 64.22 per cent females) and Dakshina Kannada (61.86 per cent males and 72.39 per cent females) at the top and Chamarajanagar (10.58 per cent males and 13.34 per cent females) at the bottom.

CONTINUED ON: P5